DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION/\$1.8 Billion Cut to Match Budget Resolution

SUBJECT: National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997 . . . S. 1745. Thurmond/Nunn amendment No. 4346.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 100-0

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1745, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997, will authorize a total of \$267.3 billion in budget authority for national defense programs (the President requested \$254.3 billion). In real terms, this bill will authorize \$5.6 billion less, and the President requested \$18.6 billion less, than was provided in fiscal year (FY) 1996.

The Thurmond/Nunn amendment would add the following, "Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1997 for the national defense function under the provisions of this Act is \$265,583." (This amendment would reduce the total amount authorized by \$1.8 billion in order to match the defense spending level in the budget resolution, as passed; in actual spending, or outlays, this bill already matches the proposed spending in the budget resolution.)

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The Armed Services Committee finished its markup of this bill before the Senate even passed its version of the budget resolution for this year. When the budget resolution was then passed, with all spending priorities weighed against each other in the plan to balance the budget by 2002, the total authorized amount for defense ended up \$1.8 billion less than this bill will authorize. Accordingly, we should now adjust the total authorized amount in this bill to match the amount that Congress has decided in the budget resolution should be authorized for defense. The specific cuts will be worked out in conference. The majority of Senators who are not happy with the defense numbers in this bill because they represent a cut in real terms from last year's spending will support this further cut in order to conform to the budget resolution, and the minority of Senators who support the deeper cuts that were proposed by the President will support this cut as the best that they can get. Therefore, this amendment should pass unanimously.

(See other side)

YEAS (100)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republican (53 or 100%)		Democrats (47 or 100%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans	Democrats (0)
						(0)	
Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Domenici Faircloth Frahm Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Hatfield	Helms Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Simpson Smith Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Akaka Baucus Biden Bingaman Boxer Bradley Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Heflin Hollings	Inouye Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Nunn Pell Pryor Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Simon Wellstone Wyden			EXPLANAT 1—Official is 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annot AN—Annot PY—Paired PN—Paired	ily Absent unced Yea unced Nay Yea

VOTE NO. 174 JUNE 26, 1996

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.